

March Meetings

Dates & Times:

Matinee, 2:30 p.m., Wednesday, March 14

Evenings, 8:00 p.m., Wednesday and Thursday March 14 and 15

Place:

May Treat Morrison Auditorium

Speaker:

Dr. Margaret W. Conkey

Subject:

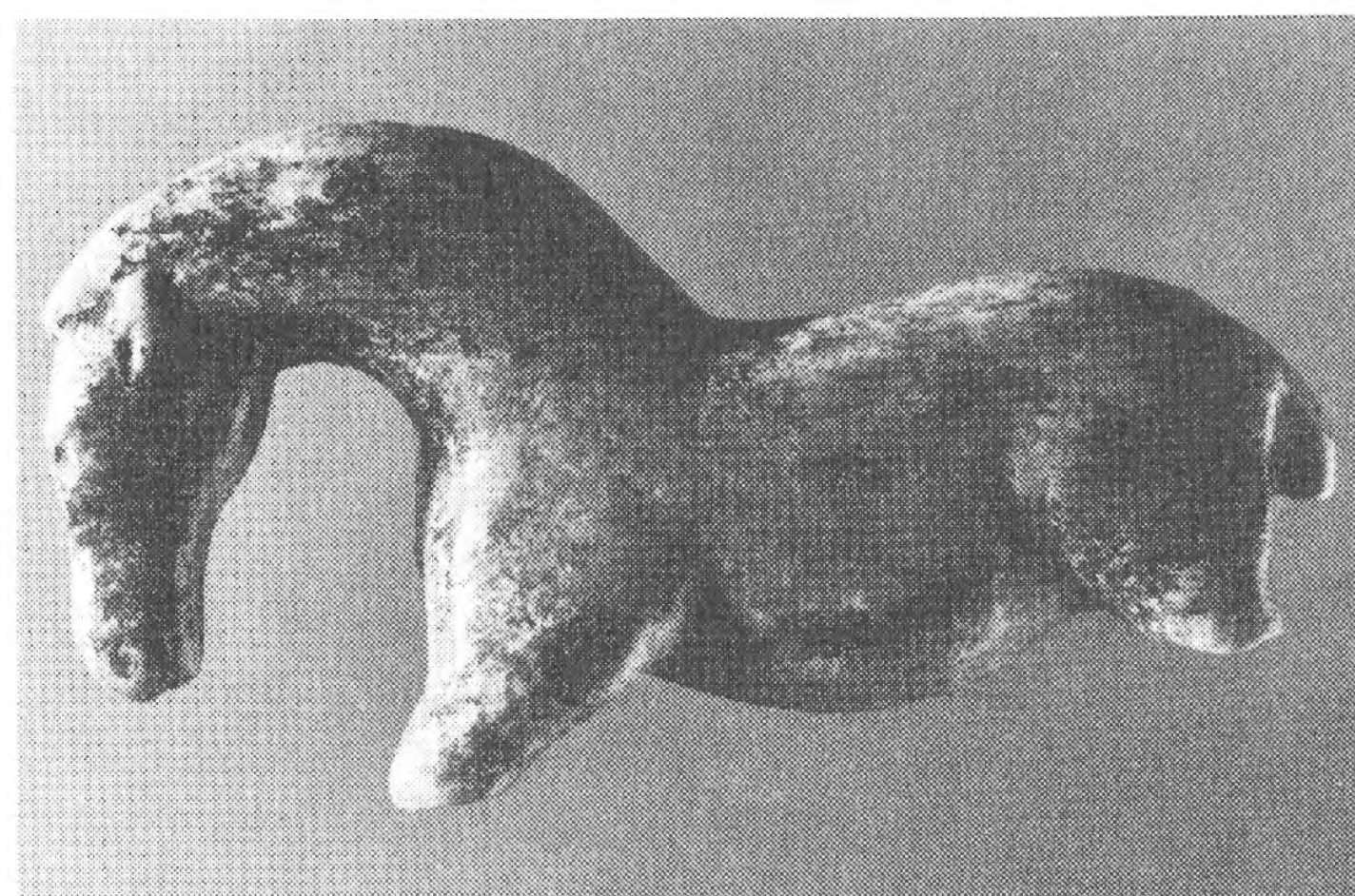
"Paleolithic Art and Design"

Hear more about the subject of ice age art with our guest speaker this month, Dr. Margaret W. Conkey, Assistant Professor of Anthropology at State University of New York, Binghamton and a Postdoctoral Fellow at University of California, Berkeley. Her slide-illustrated presentation will give you an overview of many prehistoric art-forms found throughout Southwestern Europe — cave paintings, molded and carved figurines, bas-reliefs and engraved bones and antlers — and will explore the various interpretations of their meanings.

The lecture focuses on what is known about the social context of these prehistoric artists and how their art fits into the evolution of human symbolic behavior. In addition, Dr. Conkey covers topics such as Paleolithic art as a decorative system, as a reflection of other aspects of daily life and as a source of meaning for prehistoric human life.

Dr. Conkey has worked as an archeologist for 15 years, doing extensive field work in the Franco-Cantabrian region of Southwestern Europe, among other sites. She recently earned a Ph.D. from the University of Chicago and is currently continuing research on engraved bones and antlers from the Upper Paleolithic era. She is also working on a book on Paleolithic art.

Special Exhibits



Vogelherd Horse, world's oldest sculpture

©A. Marshack, 1972

Ice Age Art, the first comprehensive exhibition of the art and symbol of Cro-Magnon man ever presented in the U.S. or Europe continues through August in Lovell White Hall.

With more than 200 works including sculptures and artifacts, photomurals of cave paintings, carvings and engravings, the show sheds new light on the culture and capacity of the earliest Homo sapiens of Europe. Cro-Magnon man appeared approximately 35,000 years ago living as hunter/gatherers during the Upper Paleolithic period of the last Ice Age in Europe. Though we have no knowledge of the language from this early period, no myth or stories and, therefore, no "history", the beautiful and sophisticated works of art tell us of great skills, of the ability to solve difficult technical problems and to make important inventions. These artworks, which include images of men, women and animals as well as abstract signs and symbols, document a keen observation of nature and indicate the presence of music, self-decoration and the decoration of tools, and of a rich ritual, ceremonial and symbolic life.

One of the highlights of the exhibit is a magnificent 26-foot painting depicting some of the lifelike bison on the famous Altamira cave ceiling in Spain, which has been called the "Ice Age Sistine Chapel" for its spectacular painted animal images.

Another exhibit on the art of Cro-Magnon man features the work of artist Douglas Mazonowicz. Using the silkscreen technique he has made accurate renderings in texture, size and color of prehistoric art

from the caves of France, Spain, Central Sahara and North America. Approximately 30 of these prints are on view through the summer in **The Hand of Man** exhibit in Cowell Hall.

Aboriginal Irian is the subject of **Man in Essence**, an exhibition featuring works by the late photographer Laurens Hillhouse, continuing through March 31 in the Atholl McBean Gallery. Also included in the display are art objects such as war shields, masks, ancestor figures and other artifacts collected by Hillhouse during his courageous exploration of this almost inaccessible region of West New Guinea. Surrounded by vast swamp and jungle areas, the Irian tribes survive as food gatherers and fishers, ritual headhunters, wood sculptors, master oarsmen and believers in the power of ancestral spirits.

Living Arts

Catch a glimpse of behind-the-scene activities during March when the Living Arts Program spotlights some of the Academy's exhibits and research departments. Events and displays will be hosted by staff members in the Wattis Hall of Man.

Saturday, March 3

1 to 3 pm

Entomology Department staff members will display specimens from the Academy's insect collection — the largest in the western region of North America! — and will describe how they are collected, prepared and researched.

Saturday, March 10

1 to 3 pm

Tony James, Curatorial Assistant of the Ornithology and Mammalogy Department will show you some colorful specimens from the Academy's Mexican and North American bird collections and will describe their preparation and the uses various researchers have made of them.

Laserium

Join the more than 6 million spectators who have seen the cosmic laser light concert each Friday, Saturday and Sunday in the Morrison Planetarium. "The Best of Laserium", a show where vivid color images are set dancing to music against a background of stars, can be seen at 7:30, 9 or 10:30 p.m. on Fridays; at 5, 7:30, 9 or 10:30 p.m. on Saturdays; and at 5, 7:30 or 9 p.m. on Sundays. Admission to all performances is \$3.25 and advance tickets are available at BASS outlets. Remaining tickets go on sale at the planetarium box-office one-half hour before show time. Members are reminded that this is not a regular planetarium attraction nor are your membership passes usable for this attraction. Call 752-4264 for more information on "The Best of Laserium".

Morrison Planetarium

And now for the kiddies . . . The Morrison Planetarium proudly presents **Magic Sky**, an all-new sky show designed especially for children — pre-school through first grade. Presented within a story-telling format with tape recorded segments narrated by Sesame Street's Bob McGrath, the show provides a basic introduction to the "magic" of the planetarium environment and gives a look at the day-night cycle of the sky. Included are stories and songs about the moon, sun and constellations.

Magic Sky will be presented at 11 a.m. on the first Monday of each month for the remainder of the school year. Admission is 50¢ per person including adults. School groups must make reservations in advance by calling (415) 221-5100, ext. 271. Individual families are also welcome.

Planetary Odyssey, the Morrison Planetarium's daily sky show through April 22 takes you to the fascinating worlds of our solar system. Journey from the mysterious cliffs of the inferno-planet Mercury to the frozen wastelands of distant Pluto. Visit the planet with more than a million moons and yet another whose core is hotter than the surface of the sun, and more.

You can see **Planetary Odyssey** each Monday through Friday at 2 p.m. or on weekends at 12:30, 2 and 3:30 p.m. Evening shows are each Wednesday and Thursday at 7:30.

Inside the Academy

Docent Recruiting Begins . . . A special invitation is extended to all Academy members by the Docent Council which is now seeking applicants for its fall training class. Docents lead guided tours for school groups in various Academy halls and participate in a wide variety of Academy and school-related activities.

The Basic Course, which prepares trainees for touring North American and Simson African Halls, will begin in mid-September and continue through April with holiday breaks. This college level course in vertebrate biology is directed by Dr. Robert T. Orr, Senior Scientist at the California Academy of Sciences, with lecturers drawn from Academy staff scientists and San Francisco State University faculty members. This rewarding opportunity is open to Academy members willing to serve three mornings a month for two years after completion of the training period. Gentlemen are especially welcome and needed! Tuition, which includes a training manual and other course material, is \$50. Four units of upper division credit through the Extension Division of San Francisco State University are available for an additional fee.

The Docent Council will be accepting applications and conducting interviews now through May. There will also be an opportunity for applicants to observe docents at work in the exhibit halls and to visit San Francisco classrooms with the **Supervan**, the Docent Council's successful outreach program that brings natural sciences to West Bay Area classrooms.

Join the 130 active docents now serving the Academy in this worthwhile project. For further information and an application call the Docent Office at 221-4214, Ext. 254.

Education and Travel Notes

Basic Techniques in Nature Drawing: Emphasis on Form and Color

March 15-May 31 (twelve Thursdays)
7:00-10:00 p.m.

By popular demand we are repeating this course by Grant Schar, art instructor at S.F. City College. Little or no experience in drawing is required. Our objective will be to develop within the student a sensitivity to form and contour in the observed natural world with special emphasis on the discipline of color and draftsmanship. \$55 members, \$65 non-members.

Hawaiian Islands

March 16-25

Volcanoes, humpback whales and tropical vegetation are study topics that are intermingled in a fascinating 10-day tour of Kauai, Hawaii, and Maui. This Hawaiian adventure will be led by geologist, Charles

Enter a Snake and Watch a Jig

Once again, they'll be off and wiggling at the second annual St. Patrick's Day Snake Race at Steinhart Aquarium on Saturday, March 17 beginning at noon. Enter your own pet snake or borrow one from Steinhart Aquarium's stable of winners. Of course, no poisonous or dangerous snakes will be allowed. Staff members who register snake racers will be the final authority on the question of snake eligibility.

There is no entry fee nor advance registration needed to enter a snake. Prizes will be given to the owner of the fastest snake and a special prize will go to the owner of the snake with the most clever name.

During the race and between heats, Academy herpetologists will be on hand with some interesting snake specimens and will be able to answer all your questions about snakes.

Following the race, Patricia Kennelly and her students from the School of Irish Dance will entertain with traditional Irish jigs and music in the Central courtyard. Call the Academy at 221-5100 for more information.

Chesterman and the cost is \$650, plus airfare. For information call Nature Expeditions International at (415) 328-6572.

Guatemala & Honduras

March 31-April 19

The emphasis of this fascinating trip will be on the natural history, native culture and Mayan sites of Guatemala and Honduras. The tour will be led, for the third time, by Dr. and Mrs. Robert T. Orr. Added to this itinerary will be a visit to Copan in Honduras, one of the oldest sites of Mayan civilization. Approximate cost \$2400. For information call Gulliver's Travel at (415) 346-4400.

Alcatraz Island

Wednesday, April 4

11:45 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Explore Alcatraz with a National Park Service Guide on this Wednesday tour. A bus will depart from the Academy at 11:45 to arrive at the wharf for a short boat ride to the island. A park service interpreter will lead our group on a two-hour tour of this historic prison. Wear comfortable shoes as there will be considerable walking outdoors and some stairways. Experience first hand the isolation and confinement of this unique place as we hear what plans the Golden Gate National Recreation Area has in store for its future. Advance reservations are required. Members only. \$6 per person.

Pinnacles National Monument

Saturday, April 7

8:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m.

Once again, our popular all-day jaunt to view the spring-splendor of this park with geologist Charles Chesterman. We will leave by chartered bus from the Academy in the morning to spend most of the day exploring the wildlife, flora, caves and rock formations along a non-strenuous hiking trail. Dinner accommodations are included at a unique restaurant in San Juan Bautista. Members only at \$25/person.

Wildflowers and Black Diamond Mines

Saturday, April 28

8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

A rare opportunity to experience the historic geology — underground! — of the Mount Diablo region. We will leave the Academy

at 8:00 to arrive at the mines about 9:45 a.m. There we will divide into two groups. While one is guided through the mines, historic cemetery and landmarks, the other group will be lead over a 2½ mile wildflower adventure. It isn't a strenuous walk and by reversing the groups following our picnic lunch, we will fill an adventurous day! \$10 per person, members only.

Wildlife and the Sutter Buttes

Saturday & Sunday, May 5-6

We had previously offered this trip during the winter months as an experience to view the many migrant bird species at the reserves. In contrast we are repeating this excursion to this northern Central Valley region with the magic of spring in the air. With the knowledgeable leadership of Walt and Rebecca Anderson, we will visit the Sutter Buttes, Butte Sink, Gray Lodge and riparian areas of the Sacramento River with emphasis on observations of wildlife, plants and the unique geology of these areas. \$80.00 double occupancy, \$10.00 single supplement, members only. (Accommodations and all meals except two are included in this cost).

The Visible Universe

May 15-June 5 (four Tuesdays)

7:30-9:30 p.m.

Join us as we view the constellations and planets of the various seasons as seen from San Francisco and other latitudes on earth. During the course we will also learn how to use a star finder, to identify the seasonal planets and stars. The yearly motions of the moon, tides, the sun and the planets will complete our view of the visible universe. Taught by Michael Bennett, lecturer for the Morrison Planetarium. \$15 for individuals, \$25 for families, non-members add \$5.

Sea of Cortez

May 5-12

Limited to 22 participants, this cruise on the Sea of Cortez aboard the **Baja Explorer** is bound to be a memorable trip for those who enjoy the variety of wildlife and natural beauties of the desert environment. Cost: \$695 from San Diego.

For more information or to make a reservation on a class or trip, please call the Travel Office at the Academy: (415) 221-5100, ext. 211, 215.

April Amphibian and Reptile Conference Set

Amphibians and Reptiles of the World — Facts and Fantasies

Morrison Auditorium

April 20-22

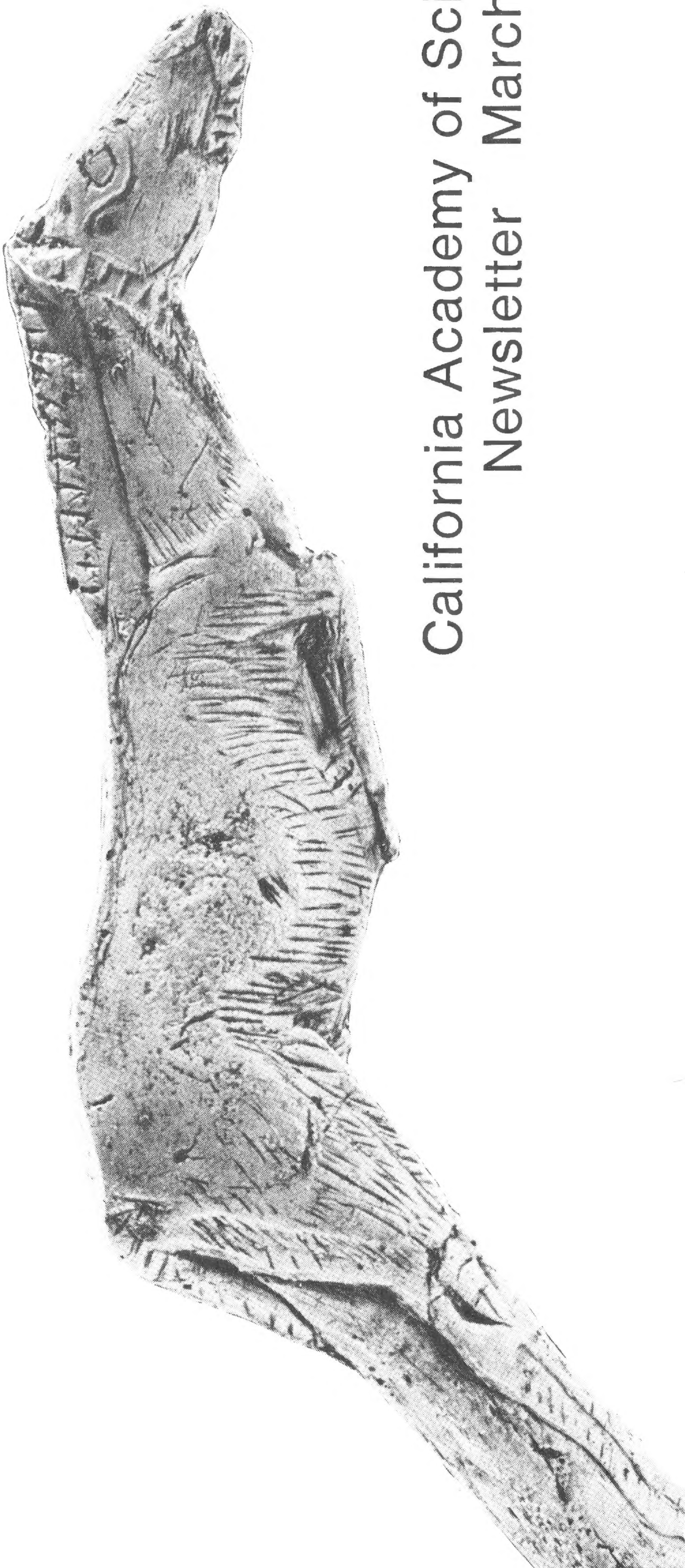
6:30 to 9:00 p.m., Friday evening

8:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m., Saturday & Sunday

The University of California Extension, Berkeley in cooperation with the Academy is presenting this weekend program for the general public. Fifteen speakers, including Academy personnel, will offer slide-illustrated lectures on such subjects as reptiles of the California deserts, frogs and toads, U.S. venomous snakes, sea snakes, behind-the-scenes at Steinhart Aquarium and more. These "cold-blooded" animals may excite interest in some people, fear and repulsion in others; still others may worship them. Amphibians were the first land vertebrates and today they may be found in lush forests or arid deserts. Some have no lungs or gills, some have no legs, some never enter the water and some never leave it. Among reptiles, some have a "third eye", while others have no seeing eyes at all. Some are completely aquatic and others never see a drop of water.

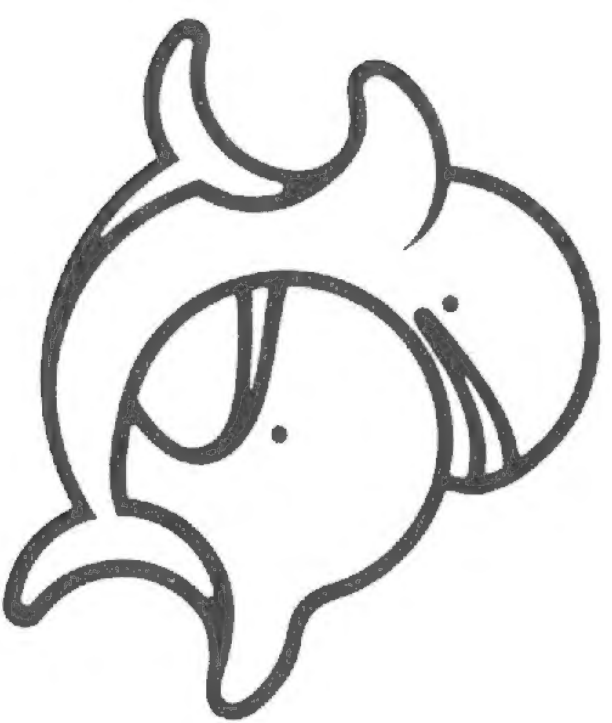
Enrollment will be accepted at the program. The fee is \$55. For brochure, enrollment form or further information call or write University Extension, Berkeley, 2223 Fulton St., Berkeley, CA 94720, (415) 642-1061.

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